

First Preliminary Amendment

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A product management system in which a production management computer installed in a production plant of products and a management warehouse computer installed in a management warehouse for managing a process from arrival and storage of the products sent from said production plant to their shipment are connected with each other via a communication line,

wherein said production management computer comprises:

a pre-shipment data creating means for creating pre-shipment data including: product data including product identification data for identifying each of products and representing features of said products; and package identification data for identifying a package containing one or more of said products, said package identification data being associated with said product identification data; and

a pre-shipment data transmitting means for transmitting said pre-shipment data to said management warehouse computer, and

wherein said management warehouse computer comprises:

a reader device for reading a first medium, said first medium being provided on said package and bearing the package identification data of said packages; and

an incoming product inventory management means for storing the package identification data, excluding said product data, in a storage medium as data on actually received incoming products by assuming that products corresponding to the product identification data associated with said package identification data have arrived if the package identification data ~~included in~~ are read from said first medium read by said reader device and the package identification thus read exist in the pre-shipment data that had been stored in ~~transmitted from~~ said production management warehouse computer.

First Preliminary Amendment

2. (original) The product management system according to claim 1, wherein said first medium includes at least one of a barcode, a two-dimensional code and a contact-free identification element.

3. (currently amended) The product management system according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said incoming product inventory management means allows position identification data to be included in said data on actually received incoming products to be stored in said storage means in addition to said package identification data, said position identification data identifying positions of said packages as stored, being associated with said package identification data to identify positions where said packages corresponding to said package identification data are stored by being associated therewith.

4. (currently amended) The product management system according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 3, wherein after reading said medium, said reader device outputs operator identification data for identifying read operators whose identification data are stored beforehand to said incoming product inventory management means together with the package identification data included in said first medium, while said incoming product inventory management means allows said operator identification data to be included in said data on actually received incoming products to be stored in said storage means in addition to said package identification data, with said operator identification data being associated with said package identification data.

5. (original) The product management system according to claim 1, wherein said first medium comprises an active type RFID tag capable of reading out and rewriting in a contact-free manner, while said reader device comprises antennae installed in a conveying passage of said packages.

First Preliminary Amendment

6. (original) The product management system according to claim 5, wherein said pre-shipment data creating means is constituted such that a second medium provided on said product comprises a passive type RFID tag whose communication range is narrower than that of said first medium, while said package identification data read out of said first medium and product identification data read out of said second medium are associated with each other to create said pre-shipment data.

7. (original) The product management system according to claim 6, wherein every time said package identification data read out of said first medium are received subsequently to said product identification data read out of said second medium, said pre-shipment data creating means creates pre-shipment data by associating said product identification data with said package identification data.

8. (original) The product management system according to claim 5, wherein said product management system further comprises: a plurality of sensor means, corresponding to respective process steps in a production line; a second medium provided on the product passing through said production line, said second medium comprising a passive type RFID tag whose communication range is narrower than that of said first medium; and an RFID tag writing instruction means for allowing work completion data indicating the completion of work to be written in said second medium at each process step corresponding to said sensor means, when said sensor means senses presence of said second medium.

9. (original) The product management system according to claim 8, wherein said RFID tag writing instruction means allows a date and hour said sensor sensed the presence of said second medium to be included in said work completion data.